

DISARMING UOPD

A FIELD GUIDE

by Disarm UO
@disarmuo



DISARM. DEFUND. DISMANTLE.

EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

In the time before UOPD...

...there was the Department of Public Safety, whose non-sworn and unarmed officers could issue citations but not make arrests or transfer people to jail -- more importantly, they weren't cops

UO Lobbies for Cops 2011

In 2011, the Oregon Senate passes SB 405, referred to by other universities as "a UO bill," that allows Universities to create police departments and hire officers with "all the authority and and immunity of police officers of this state"

2011 DPS Becomes UOPD

UO proposes to the then State Board of Higher Education to form the UOPD, ignoring the 78% of students who voted against it, citing the need to protect its property. Initially unarmed, the UO promises "extensive campus conversations" before arming.

Tasers & Rifles 2017

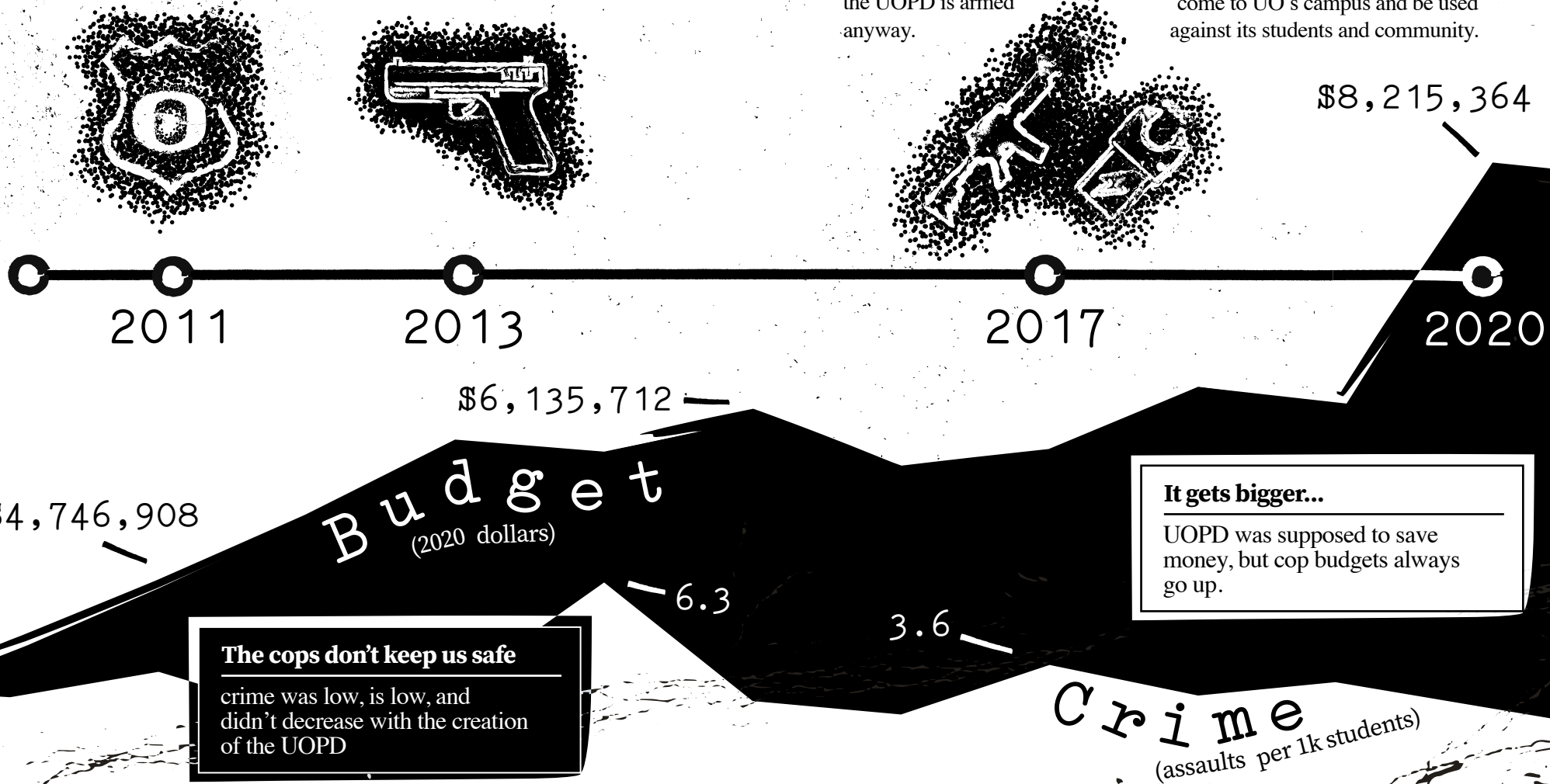
Unhindered by further community dialogue, the UOPD acquires bodycams, Tasers, semi-automatic rifles with high-capacity magazines, and a bomb sniffing dog.

Each time it gets new weapons, UOPD reminds us it needs to

"catch up" with the techniques of violence and surveillance used by other departments -- so as long as UOPD is a PD, it's a question of *when* not *if* drones, LRADs, and chemical munitions will come to UO's campus and be used against its students and community.

2013 UOPD is Armed

Despite UO's "extensive conversations" indicating the community was opposed, the UOPD is armed anyway.



The cops don't keep us safe

crime was low, is low, and didn't decrease with the creation of the UOPD

It gets bigger...

UOPD was supposed to save money, but cop budgets always go up.

NATURAL BEHAVIOR

UOPD: Violent arm of the Academy

Make no mistake: UOPD are 100% real cops, equipped with every grotesque power and immunity any other police department wields--on and off campus.

Police exist to safeguard property and violently maintain the status quo. Cops do not prevent crime, and despite their "community outreach" programs, as a system their sole mode of responding to crime is retributive punishment.

The UOPD is the force-bearing extension of the "academy," and its rigidly enforced hierarchy: the unaccountable paramilitary of the Board of Trustees. They patrol a border between campus and the community to keep out those that "don't belong," inject carceral logic into dispute resolution processes, and hold the glint of violence just within sight to remind everyone who *really* controls the university.

Cops are Inherently Unaccountable

The University makes a public show of oversight, but the very nature of UOPD being a police department guarantees it is never elevated beyond theater:

Police Unions (UOPD's is UOPA) uphold the "thin blue line" culture of racism and violence, subverting collective bargaining and arbitration into bulwarks against transparency and accountability - the only way to fire cops is if they turn on each other.

District Attorneys simply decline to charge cops or employ shady grand juries to ensure charges don't stick, giving them near impunity from the law. Even in unlikely prosecutions, juries often decline to convict killer cops.

Qualified immunity allows cops to brutalize and harass, so long as they do not violate "clearly established" rights. Among other things, the federal appellate court that would hear cases against UOPD officers has used QI to allow cops to taser a pregnant woman, taser a nearly naked man in the back, and deliberately steal property.

Violence is Police Culture

UOPD carries and uses batons, tasers, pepper spray, other weapons, and pain compliance techniques, and is authorized to employ deadly force.

The siege mentality of police departments cultivates an insular culture of violence, and UOPD's was well-documented during the 2015 "Bowl of Dicks" lawsuit. The function of compiling an enemies list during preshift briefings is to clearly draw a line between 'us' and 'them' and shake out anyone that might disagree. There can be no dissent: The plaintiff was pinned to the wall and physically intimidated when they wouldn't say all Occupy protesters were "dirtbags and dirty hippies."

Police violence is communicative: they use it to demonstrate their difference from, and power over marginalized groups -- BIPOC, queer people, and "dirtbags."

Use of Force

Though UOPD has used force 100 times between 2012 and 2020, a Use of Force Review Board has never been convened - UOPD's violence is literally unregulated.

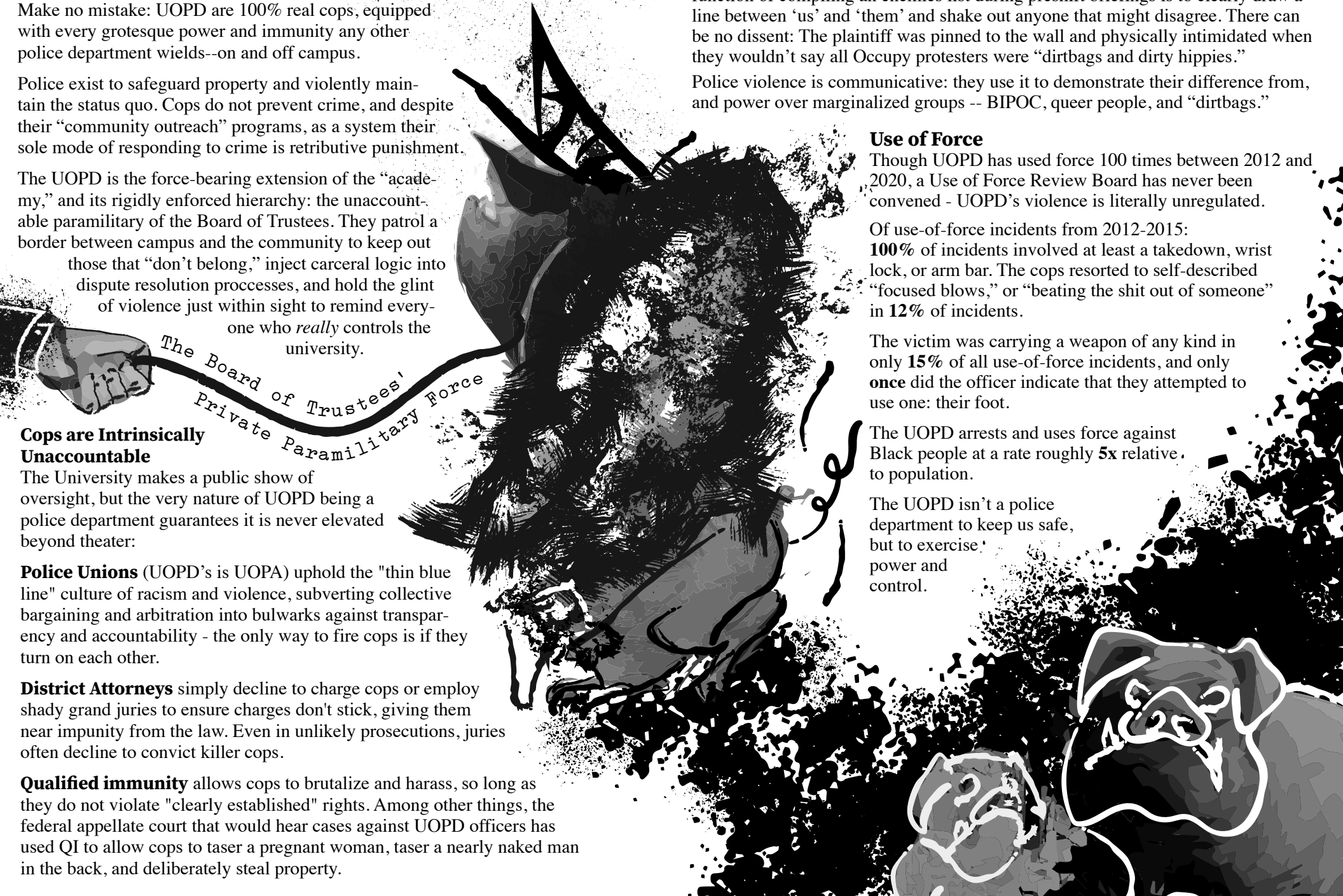
Of use-of-force incidents from 2012-2015:

100% of incidents involved at least a takedown, wrist lock, or arm bar. The cops resorted to self-described "focused blows," or "beating the shit out of someone" in **12%** of incidents.

The victim was carrying a weapon of any kind in only **15%** of all use-of-force incidents, and only **once** did the officer indicate that they attempted to use one: their foot.

The UOPD arrests and uses force against Black people at a rate roughly **5x** relative to population.

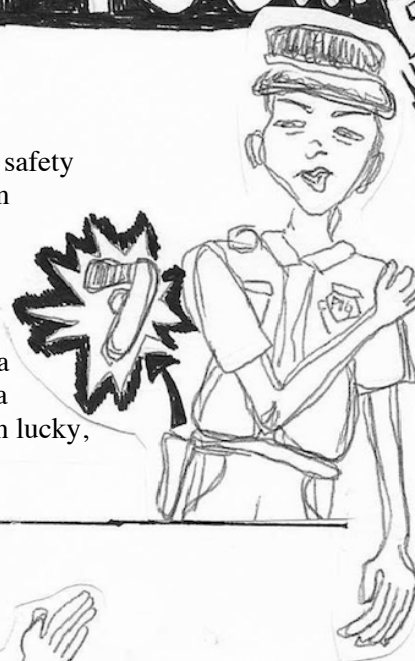
The UOPD isn't a police department to keep us safe, but to exercise power and control.



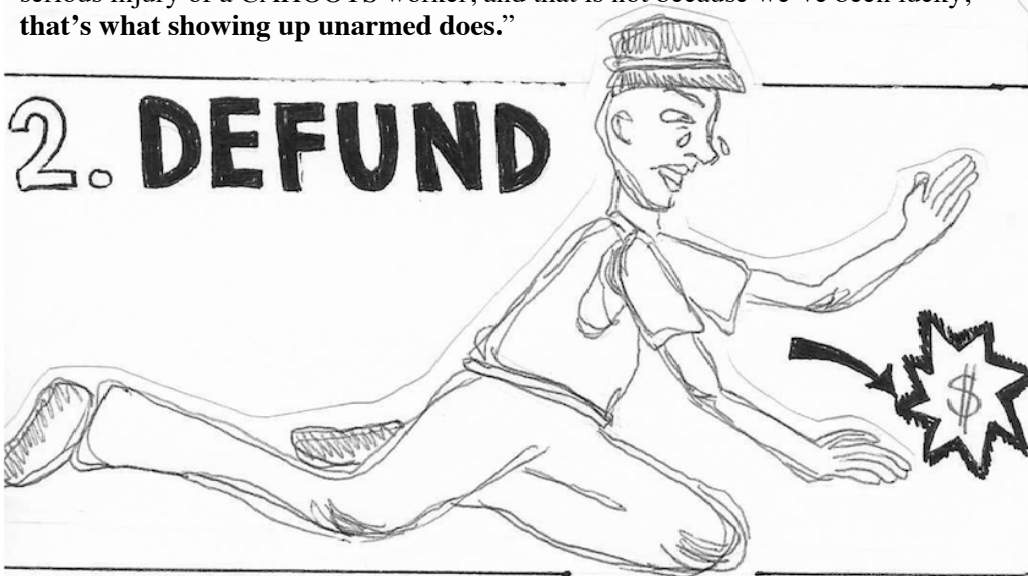
WHAT TO DO IF YOU...

1. DISARM

There is absolutely no evidence that arming school cops increases overall safety or improves relationships within our community. Armed cops stationed on campus have neither prevented nor stopped "active shooter" incidents. UOPD's presence tells many students that they are considered suspects, future "criminals" who must be surveilled and controlled. Disarmed crisis-intervention workers are more effective at handling the mental health crises that make up most of the UOPD's uses of force. Ask Chelsea Swift, crisis worker with CAHOOTS: "In 30 years, there has never been a serious injury of a CAHOOTS worker, and that is not because we've been lucky, **that's what showing up unarmed does.**"



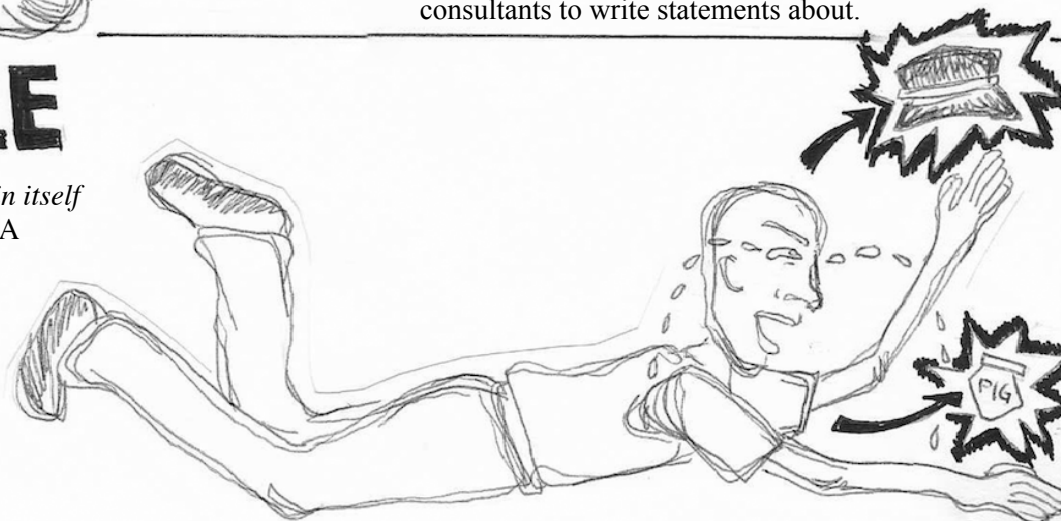
2. DEFUND



Cops' ever-increasing budgets create the conditions for their militarization, immunity from legal repercussions, and continually deepens UO's investment in the project of white supremacy. Simple disarmament will not adequately address this university's complicity in the perpetuation of institutional racism. We don't have to capitulate to the black hole of resources consumed by an institution of violent control. Instead we must reject the myth that only the police can keep us safe. Defunding is a generative, not destructive process: it is exactly the reinvestment into the systems of compassion and community support the UO hires PR consultants to write statements about.

3. DISMANTLE

It is the legal and administrative structure of policing *in itself* that must be abolished: we can't just ask for the guns. A conditionally armed police department still has all the qualified immunity, union protection, and legal incentives for escalating technologies of surveillance and control that other cops do. Though unarmed, unsworn security models, like the DPS, can and do replicate the same patterns of policing that make sworn police departments so harmful, **dismantling UOPD is the necessary first step towards a just campus**



Follow Us

Insta: @disarmuo
Signal Boost: text HELLO to +1.205.707.8293

Do your Part

DM us or email
disarmuo@riseup.net

Follow Us

Insta: @disarmuo
Signal Boost: text HELLO to +1.205.707.8293

Do your Part

DM us or email
disarmuo@riseup.net

Follow Us

Insta: @disarmuo
Signal Boost: text HELLO to +1.205.707.8293

Do your Part

DM us or email
disarmuo@riseup.net

Follow Us

Insta: @disarmuo
Signal Boost: text HELLO to +1.205.707.8293

Do your Part

DM us or email
disarmuo@riseup.net

Follow Us

Insta: @disarmuo
Signal Boost: text HELLO to +1.205.707.8293

Do your Part

DM us or email
disarmuo@riseup.net

Follow Us

Insta: @disarmuo
Signal Boost: text HELLO to +1.205.707.8293

Do your Part

DM us or email
disarmuo@riseup.net

Follow Us

Insta: @disarmuo
Signal Boost: text HELLO to +1.205.707.8293

Do your Part

DM us or email
disarmuo@riseup.net